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federation (I. 1) and in another place the phrase "supporters of centralization" (II. 38). In passing it may be said that the Mexican constitution of 1824 (II. 37) is fully as much Spanish in origin as American, many sections being taken bodily from the Spanish constitution of 1812, which in its turn derived the substance of its provisions from the constitutions of the French Revolution. A rather careless slip may be seen on page 294 (volume II.) where the note states that the Apportionment Act of 1901 provided for a membership of 391 in the Lower House of Congress. The proper number of course is 386, with five since added for Oklahoma.

The collection as a whole is excellent and will prove to be well-nigh indispensable to that large and growing body of students who desire to compare the governmental systems of states so as to gain thereby a clearer knowledge of the underlying principles of political development.

J. Q. DEALEY.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Guide to the Manuscript Materials for the History of the United States to 1783, in the British Museum, in Minor London Archives, and in the Libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. By CHARLES M. ANDREWS and FRANCES G. DAVENPORT. (Washington: Published by the Carnegie Institution. 1908. Pp. xiv, 499.)

PROFESSOR ANDREWS and Miss Davenport, together with all students of the history of the American colonies and Revolution, are to be congratulated on the publication of this the first installment of the Guide to the manuscript materials in the British archives which relate to the United States. The present volume contains an inventory of the materials in the British Museum, the Privy Council Office, the House of Lords, in Lambeth Palace, Fulham Palace and in the possession of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge, and in various smaller repositories. To the vast collections in the Record Office a later and separate volume, by Professor Andrews, will be devoted. The lists of papers in the British Museum, the Privy Council Office and the libraries of the universities include all manuscripts relating to the island colonies and to Canada, but this rule was not so completely carried out in the case of the other collections. A brief description or identification of every document or pamphlet is given, with the number which it bears—both of volume and folio—in the catalogue of the collection to which it belongs. An elaborate index, with special helps and classifications of its own, concludes the volume. With the aid of this Guide it therefore becomes possible for the inquirer to ascertain in a brief time where the sources which he is seeking are located and what he can afford to ignore. As a handbook for investi-

gators it will be of the greatest value. With it in his possession the student can proceed with certainty from the first that he will not miss any important source of information. Thus a large amount of useless searching will be avoided.

But there is another point of view from which this volume—and its successor as well—may be regarded. It is a chart of an hitherto imperfectly discovered country. For generations we have been hearing from time to time about the Rawlinson or Clarendon Papers in the Bodleian Library, or the Egerton, Sloane and Additional Manuscripts in the British Museum. Individuals from this country have paid them brief and desultory visits and have reported finds which have helped to clear up more or less minute points in American history. These finds have occasioned the publication of many volumes and have established, or helped to establish, not a few reputations. But it all has borne much the same relation to the exploration of the British materials for American history as did the voyages of the early explorers to the opening-up of the American continent. The explorers in both fields touched the shores of the continent or penetrated a little distance inland. Historical students will now have in their possession a chart which indicates in sufficient outline the entire territory which they have to explore, with its chief natural features and artificial divisions. It has now become possible to form a somewhat definite idea of these various collections, so far as they relate to American history. The character of the documents and the periods within which they fall are set forth in this volume.

The publication of this Guide, therefore, is one among many signs that we have entered upon a new epoch in the study of American history. It is the outgrowth of a demand for a more thorough and exhaustive investigation of the sources. It implies and will be followed by a more comprehensive and scientific treatment of the period as a whole than hitherto has been possible or even imagined. The era of partial views and isolated efforts, whether in the collection of materials or the writing of history, is passing away. The nation must and will come into possession of the sources here catalogued and its scholars will explore them and will write its history with an adequate knowledge of all its bearings and connections and a purpose to do justice to all parties concerned. And the most valuable among these sources will not always remain in manuscript form, but in due time will be printed in orderly sequence and under proper editorship. Then the work contemplated by the editors of the Guide will have been accomplished, for we shall then know after some proper fashion the history of our origins as a nation and of our connection with the land that gave us birth.

The compilers of the Guide have performed their task with great thoroughness and care. The general descriptions of the different collections and the identifications of the separate documents are models of clear and concise statement. In a goodly number of cases helpful references are made to collateral printed sources or to collections where the

identical documents are to be found in print. Among the documents in the Additional Manuscripts, in the British Museum, which relate to the Peace Commission of 1778 (pp. 149-153), references might well have been made to Stevens's *Facsimiles*, where not a few of these papers may be found. The fact that they are there reproduced is, however, noted under the head of the Auckland Manuscripts in the list of transcripts which have been made for the Library of Congress and which is appended to this volume.

Very few errors or misprints have been noted, and in view of the care with which the volume has been edited, it is not likely that its prolonged use will bring to light any considerable number of such. The statement however is made on p. 172 that the permanent Council or Board of Trade of 1696 owed its appointment to Parliament. It was of course commissioned by the king, as similar boards in previous times had been, however great the influence of Parliament upon the adoption of the policy may have been.

HERBERT L. OSGOOD.

Statistical and Chronological History of the United States Navy, 1775-1907. In two volumes. By ROBERT WILDEN NEESER, Fellow of Yale College. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1909. Pp. 153; 487.)

IN these two volumes, Mr. Neeser has published about one-third of his monumental work on the American navy. As the remaining volumes will require much time and labor, he is at present unable to make any promises respecting the date of their completion. The entire work, which covers the period 1775-1907, he divides into five parts, as follows (I. vii., preface): (1) Administration of the Navy Department, and Events and Dates of Reference in United States Naval History; (2) Engagements, Expeditions, and Captures of Vessels of War; (3) Captures of Merchantmen; (4) a Complete Record of Every Vessel's Service and Fate; and (5) American Privateers, 1772-1862; the State Navies, 1775-1783; and the Confederate States Navy, 1861-1865. We understand that it is Mr. Neeser's intention to include a sixth part, which will contain lists of secretaries of the navy, assistant secretaries, chiefs of bureaus, commanders of squadrons, etc. It may be seen from this synopsis that every phase of the history of the navy of the United States is treated, and that special attention is paid to naval operations, naval administration, the history of vessels, the navy of the Southern Confederacy, the state navies and the privateers. There is, to be sure, a kindred subject, the colonial navies and privateers, but this obviously does not form a part of the history of the "United States navy".

From the point of view of the reader, Mr. Neeser's work contains a seventh part, a bibliography of the American navy, which is published as volume I., and which forms one of the author's most valuable contri-